

A. Gray
Princeton N. J.
April 20th 1860

For the copy of your able
review of Darwin's development
theory, that I owe no doubt
to your kindness. The question
is one of great interest; but
the idea of the transmutation
of the species is one which
rests, I think, on a misinter-
pretation of the beautiful law
of the successive appearance of
the members of the Animal Kingdom
& of their organic relations. What
unfolds itself is the Creator's plan;
the energies for a true development
of the whole are not given to the Animal
Kingdom. It is just the reverse in man.

Mrs Sandez & myself are very sorry to hear that
Mrs Gray's health is not as good as you would wish it.
We would be delighted to see her in Princeton on her return.
Mrs Sandez is grateful for your kind remembrance of
her & asks me to tender you her cordial greeting.
As to me, my dear doctor, it remains, as ever,
your beautiful friend
Dr Asa Gray A. Gray

My dear Doctor,

I shall be very happy to
furnish the Council of the Academy
with a short notice of Ritter's life
& labors. I have written a
somewhat extensive one for the
Geographical Society of New York,
which is now printing. If it were
issued, I would be glad to send
you a copy from which an
abstract, suited for the purpose,
could be made with ease. But
I scarcely hope that the printer
will serve me quick enough to
allow me to do so within the stated time.

I shall therefore try to send
you a notice of the required ~~size~~
length before the middle of May,
& earlier if I can. I mention
that time because I have now
a course of lectures going on in
New York & ^{before me} the closing of another
in the College, with accompany-
ment of examinations & which
leave me very little leisure. Still
if nothing new comes in the way,
I hope to be ready for the first week
in May.

You do not err when you
say that such a task is one
that I shall love to perform.

Pittier has done so much for
human culture & for my own,
I so deeply sympathize with him,
that I do not feel at liberty to
decline any opportunity to
honor him & to ~~do~~ him all
the justice due to his excellencies
& his scientific services.

When do the Meetings of
the Academy close? I have
in mind to visit Boston
towards the end of May & I
should like to read a paper
on some points which I should
like to have discussed.

I very much thank you